

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 are rejected.

The specification is objected to for informalities. The specification has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Attached are proposed corrections to Figs 3 and 5. Note that in item 48 of Fig. 3, the word "response" has been misspelled. In item 84 of Fig. 5, "storage" is misspelled.

Claim 11 is newly added. Claim 3 has been objected to for informalities. Claim 3 has been corrected as proposed by the Examiner. Claims 1-3, 5-7 have been amended to clarify the present invention.

No new matter is entered.

Claims 1-2 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Cannata et al. (Cannata) in view of Tsuchimoto (Tsuchimoto). The Office Action refers to Figs. 1 and 4 and col. 10, lines 58-67 of Cannata as showing a first connection unit for creating corrected sensitivity picture data by correcting shading components caused by the optical system to produce uniform scene components as a result of an image taking process of a uniform scene. In the Office Action it's admitted that Cannata does not disclose a storage unit and a second correction unit.

In applicant's claim 1, the housing response profile is a value based on a first differential data between a first and a second picture data for the detector element, resulting in the first differential data is a housing shading component obtained by canceling the scene component. This is because the first and second picture data are picture data taken by setting a black-body-radiator at a first temperature placed in front of the camera head and setting the camera head at a second temperature and a third temperature.

Because the first and second picture data are picture data taken by setting a black-body-radiator at the first temperature, both picture data contain the same scene components and different housing shading components.

Therefore, the first differential data contains a housing shading component but does not contain any scene component. Thus, the first differential data is a housing shading component obtained by canceling the scene component.

In the cited reference Tsuchimoto, the output of infrared sensor in the shutter closed state is stored in the shading memory 208 and is not obtained by canceling a scene component. Therefore data stored in the shading memory 208 of Tsuchimoto et al. is quite different from the housing response profile of applicant's claim 1.

In applicant's claim 1 the housing response profile is computed, created and stored in the storage unit offline and computation of the housing response profile is not needed even if ambient temperature changes during operation because the first differential data is a housing shading component and the housing response profile is a value based on the housing shading component.

In contrast the output of the infrared sensor of Tsuchimoto in the shutter closed state varies with ambient temperature. Therefore, the output of the infrared sensor in the shutter closed state must be stored in the shading memory 208 online whenever the ambient temperature changes during operation. As a result, a camera of Tsuchimoto can not take a picture of a target when the shutter is closed.

The second correction unit of applicant's claim 1 estimates housing-shading components based on said corrected-sensitivity picture data received from said first correction unit and the housing response profile for each of the detector elements received from the storage unit.


Tsuchimoto discloses to calculate a difference between the output of the infrared sensor in the shutter opened state, denoted by Q_w , and the output of the infrared sensor in the shutter closed state, denoted by Q_R , and add the difference to the component of the output of the infrared sensor computed by the CPU corresponding to the infrared beam component in the shutter closed state.

For at least the foregoing differences it is respectfully submitted applicant's claimed invention would not have been obvious in view of the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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